

**Remarks**

The title of the invention has been amended to that suggested by the Examiner which is acceptable to the applicant.

The claims have been amended not only to more clearly patentably distinguish the present invention over the prior art of record but to also address the Examiner's various formality and indefiniteness objections.

Referring now to the rejection of claims 1, 17 and 23 as being anticipated by Kodialam (US6538991), it should be noted that Kodialam does not teach the installation in a label switched packet network of partial routes, each comprising at least two label switched paths (LSPs) with a pre-installed cross-connection in a node at each end of the at least two LSPs, such that an end-to-end route across the network can be defined as the concatenation of two of said partial routes. In Kodialam, column 3, lines 52-58, reference is made to links and not partial routes. A link is a well known term in the art which defines a connection between two nodes. It in no way relates to a partial route as now defined in the amended claims of the present application.

Similarly, the Examiner's arbitrary choice of series of links such as N1-N4-N9-N10 and N10-N13 does not constitute partial routes as defined in the present invention. In any event, there is no teaching in Kodialam to concatenate two previously installed partial paths or even two series of links to provide an end to end connection across the network. What Kodialam really teaches is the provision of a network tunnel path (NTP) between a pair of ingress and egress points. As such, the NTP is a complete end to end route with no suggestion that two or more such NTPs might be concatenated to form an end to end route (cf. Kodialam, summary of invention section and col. 5, lines 5 to 18). The issue that Kodialam addresses is where an NTP does not extend between a pair of ingress and egress points. In such a case,

one would have a three step process of forming an end to end connection comprising 1) routing packets to the start of the NTP, 2) transporting the packets through the NTP and 3) routing the packets from the end of the NTP to their final destinations. Thus, this also does not suggest an end to end route comprising the concatenation of two partial routes since it comprises an optimization of a hop-by-hop routing process whereby a group of hops are reduced to an NTP but the nodes at either end of the NTP are still performing packet-by-packet routing functions.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 17 and 23 cannot be sustained.

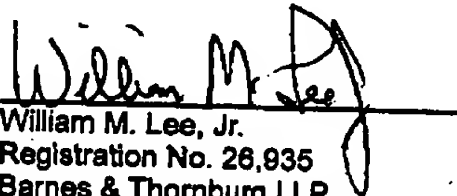
Since all of the independent claims of the present application have been amended to the feature discussed in the foregoing, the rejection of such claims is now moot.

The present invention makes a useful contribution to the art since it enables an end to end route to be established across a label switched packet network through the concatenations of only two partial routes which makes more efficient use of label stacks to route packets over the network.

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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